

6.0 COMMENTS AND COORDINATION

The agency and public review of the DEIS, response to comments, and additional coordination with federal, state and local agencies conducted since issuance of the DEIS is summarized in this chapter.

6.1 Agency and Public Review of DEIS

The DEIS was made available as of December 19, 2005 in the project area. A Notice of Availability was published in the Federal Register on December 23, 2005.

A printed copy of the DEIS and Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation was made available for public review at each of the following locations:

- City of Bellevue, City Hall and Library, 115 Pine Street, Bellevue, ID
- City of Hailey City Hall, 115 South Main Street, Hailey, ID
- City of Ketchum City Hall, 480 East Avenue North, Ketchum, ID
- City of Sun Valley, City Hall, 81 Elkhorn Road, Sun Valley, ID
- Blaine County Planning and Zoning, 219 First Avenue South, Suite 208, Hailey, ID
- Community Library, 415 Spruce Avenue North, Ketchum, ID
- Idaho Transportation Department, District 4, 216 South Date Street, Shoshone, ID
- Idaho Transportation Department, 3311 West State Street, Boise, ID
- Federal Highway Administration, 3050 Lakeharbor Lane, #126, Boise, ID

Printed and/or electronic copies of the DEIS and Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation were distributed to the following federal, state and local agencies:

- Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Forest Service
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Idaho Division of Water Resources
- Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
- City of Ketchum
- Blaine County
- City of Hailey
- City of Sun Valley
- City of Bellevue
- City of Ketchum

A letter notifying project participants of the availability of the DEIS and notification of the public hearing was mailed by regular mail to the project mailing list and to all registered land owners for properties that abut SH-75. Electronic copies of the DEIS and Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation on CD ROM were mailed upon request to 59 persons.

1 Notification of the public hearing and close of public comment period was advertised in the following
2 newspapers: Idaho Mountain Express, Wood River Journal, Idaho Unido (Spanish and English language),
3 The Idaho Statesman, and the Northside News and Gooding County Leader (January 19, 2006).
4 A public hearing was held on January 26, 2006 at the Blaine County Senior Center, Hailey, Idaho from 3
5 p.m. to 8 p.m. A total of 176 people signed in.
6 Approximately 140 comments were received at the public hearing, by mail, fax and email by the close of the
7 public comment period on February 24, 2006.

8 **6.2 Response to Comments**

9 The SH-75 Timmerman to Ketchum Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) was issued in December
10 2005. The general public, resource and regulatory agencies were offered the opportunity to review and
11 comment on the DEIS during the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) public review process, pursuant
12 to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This process included a public hearing held in the project
13 area, a public and governmental comment period, and continuation of the agency coordination and public
14 coordination programs.

15 Comments were received on the DEIS in the form of written and oral testimony at the public hearing, as well
16 as letters, faxes, and emails. Appendix B of this FEIS provides responses to comments received from
17 Federal and State of Idaho agencies, the six affected local governments, and local organizations. These
18 testimonies and letters received during the public comment period and at the public hearing and the
19 response to these comments are included in Appendix B of this FEIS and are available on the project
20 website at www.sh-75.com. For the non-agency comments, the comments were grouped by common
21 subject matter or theme and responded to in that format, with reference to each of the comment letters or
22 testimonies addressed by the response. Responses to these comments are also included in Appendix B.

23 **6.3 Coordination and Consultation**

24 Additional agency coordination was conducted to address comments received on the DEIS. Table 6-1
25 summarizes that coordination.

26 Appendix A Agency Consultation and Coordination contains agency correspondence received during
27 preparation of the DEIS, in response to the DEIS, and subsequent to close of the comment period on the
28 DEIS.

1

Table 6-1: Federal, State and Local Jurisdiction Coordination Meetings

| Date/Location | Agency or Jurisdiction | Purpose |
|---|---|--|
| April 5, 2006 Boise, Idaho | Federal Highway Administration Environmental Protection Agency U.S. Army Corps of Engineers U.S. Forest Service Idaho Transportation Department | Resolution of EPA's comments on DEIS. Clarification of wetlands mitigation concept plan and analysis. |
| April 5, 2006 Boise, Idaho | Idaho Transportation Department, Public Transportation Division | Transit funding and plans in Blaine County |
| April 13, 2006 | Federal Highway Administration Idaho Transportation Department | DEIS comment resolution, FEIS format |
| May 15, 2006 | Idaho Transportation Department Blaine County State Legislators | Briefing on DEIS comments, additional community coordination, FEIS process |
| May 15, 2006 Bellevue, Idaho | City of Bellevue Idaho Transportation Department | Resolution of Bellevue comments on DEIS |
| May 17, 2006 Twin Falls, Idaho | Idaho Department of Environmental Quality | Approach to TMDL issues and water quality in the FEIS |
| May 22, 2006 Sun Valley, Idaho | City of Sun Valley City of Ketchum Idaho Transportation Department | Resolution of Ketchum and Sun Valley comments on DEIS |
| May 22, 2006 Hailey, Idaho | Blaine County Recreation District | Resolution of comments on the DEIS |
| May 23, 2006 Hailey, Idaho | Blaine County Commissioners Idaho Transportation Department | Resolution of Blaine County comments on DEIS |
| May 23, 2006 Hailey, Idaho | City of Hailey | Resolution of Hailey's comments on DEIS |
| May 6, 2006 (Teleconference) | Federal Highway Administration, Idaho Transportation Department, City of Ketchum, City of Sun Valley | Discussion of selection of a preferred alternative. |
| May 13, 2006 (Teleconference) | Idaho Transportation Department City of Ketchum, City of Sun Valley | Discussion of selection of a preferred alternative. |
| June 14, 2006 (Telephone conference) | Idaho State Police | Comments on HOV operation and enforcement |
| June 15, 2006 | Federal Highway Administration Idaho Transportation Department | Selection of a Preferred Alternative |
| May 2, 2006 (by telephone) | Idaho Department of Fish and Game Idaho Transportation Department | Fisherman access to Big Wood River from SH-75 |
| April 26, 2006 | Shoshone-Bannock Tribes Idaho Transportation Department | Additional request for comment |
| March 14, 2006 | City of Ketchum, City of Sun Valley | Discussion of a preferred alternative between Elkhorn Road and River Street |
| December 14, 2006 | Federal Highway Administration Idaho Transportation Department | Discussion of a preferred alternative between Elkhorn Road and River Street |
| December 10, 2007 | Federal Highway Administration Idaho Transportation Department | Selection of a Preferred Alternative |

6.4 Next Steps

In accordance with 23 CFR 771.127, this FEIS will be available for review for a minimum of 30 days from the time the Environmental Protection Agency publishes a notice of availability in the Federal Register. Notification of its availability will also be published in the printed and electronic news media in Blaine County, Idaho.

The FEIS has been made available to federal, state, and local agencies, private organizations, and members of the public who provided substantive comments on the DEIS. Reference copies of the FEIS have also been placed in the following locations:

- City of Bellevue, City Hall and Library, 115 Pine Street, Bellevue, ID
- City of Hailey City Hall, 115 South Main Street, Hailey, ID
- City of Ketchum City Hall, 480 East Avenue North, Ketchum, ID
- City of Sun Valley, City Hall, 81 Elkhorn Road, Sun Valley, ID
- Blaine County Planning and Zoning, 219 First Avenue South, Suite 208, Hailey, ID
- Community Library, 415 Spruce Avenue North, Ketchum, ID
- Idaho Transportation Department, District 4, 216 South Date Street, Shoshone, ID
- Idaho Transportation Department, 3311 West State Street, Boise, ID
- Federal Highway Administration, 3050 Lakeharbor Lane, #126, Boise, ID

A Record of Decision (ROD) will be signed by FHWA no sooner than 30 days after the Notice of Availability of the FEIS is published in the Federal Register. The ROD will explain the reasons for the project decision, summarize any mitigation measures that will be incorporated into the project, and document the required Section 4(f) approval. The ROD will include the following key items: a decision on the selected alternative; alternatives considered; Section 4(f); measures to minimize harm; monitoring or enforcement program; and comments and responses to any comments received on the FEIS.

FHWA may publish a notice in the Federal Register, pursuant to 23 USC §139(l), indicating that one or more Federal agencies have taken final action on permits, licenses, or approvals for a transportation project. If such notice is published, claims seeking judicial review of those Federal agency actions will be barred unless such claims are filed within 180 days after the date of publication of the notice, or within such shorter time period as is specified in the Federal laws pursuant to which judicial review of the Federal agency action is allowed. If no notice is published, then the periods of time that otherwise are provided by the Federal laws governing such claims will apply.

FHWA has not determined whether it will publish such a notice for the SH-75 Project. FHWA plans to indicate in the ROD whether or not it will be publishing such a notice regarding the final NEPA action.